

Agency Charge to the US EPA SAB Science and Technology Review Panel

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) is viewed as the lead science office at EPA, however, only about half of the science conducted by the Agency is performed by ORD. Each of the Program Offices and Regions conduct scientific activities which range from risk assessments to laboratory analyses. To ensure that the science conducted at EPA is well planned, organized and coordinated, EPA's Deputy Administrator has asked that the SAB review the entire Science and Technology budget proposal. This review has become an annual event and helps the Agency with its science planning and in its evaluation of the effectiveness of the science budget under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).

The Agency's charge questions for the SAB are included below. These will be the focus of the review that will be conducted by the Panel.

- 1: Does the budget request reflect priorities identified in the EPA and ORD Strategic Plans?
- 2: Does the budget request reflect coordination between ORD and the Program Offices, including identification of the science needed to support major upcoming rules and decisions?
- 3: Does the President's Budget request provide adequate balance and attention to the core and problem driven research needed to provide satisfactory knowledge for current and future decisions EPA will be required to make?
- 4: Is the EPA research and development program addressing the important issues needed to meet EPA's strategic objectives and protect human health and the environment in the US and globally? What important issues are not receiving adequate attention at the requested level of resources provided for the R&D program and the S&T budget?
- 5: How can EPA better use measures of performance that focus on environmental outcomes to identify the impact of its research and development program and the funds that Congress provides for that program?

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